GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2203
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2006
NEW CLAUSE IN INDO US NUCLEAR DEAL
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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new clause, which was introduced by the Senate, in the Indo-US nuclear deal has become a matter of concern for India;

(b) if so, whether the new clause in Section 115 of the Bill recommends joint research between India and the US in the area of nuclear non-proliferation;

(c) if so, whether the new clause will also facilitate alleged backdoor entry of US National Nuclear Security Administration; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to address this concern during the forthcoming reconciliation conference?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) − (c) An amendment to the waiver Bill passed by the US Senate on November 16, 2006 to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation with India envisages setting up of a cooperative threat reduction (CTR) programme to further common non-proliferation goals. No prior discussions on setting up such a programme have taken place between the two Governments. By its very nature, establishing such a programme would require the agreement of Government of India, which would take a decision after fully taking into account all aspects of our national security. In fact, US Congress had earlier legislated on establishing a CTR programme with India under the Department of Defense Appropriations Act 2002, which has not been implemented.

(d) Government of India has conveyed its concerns with regard to current versions of the legislation to the US side. It is our position that the final legislation adhere as closely as possible to the understandings contained in the India-US Joint Statement of July 18, 2005 and the March 2006 Separation Plan.